OHIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NEWS BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 1947 VOL. 17, No. 2

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REPRESENTATIVES ON A. L. A. COUNCIL: Walter Brahm, Ohio State Library; Marie Newberry, Dayton Public Library; Paul Bixler, Antioch College Library.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Four large district meetings are being planned for this Fall under the sponsorship of the extension committee of the Ohio Library Association. Miss Viola Metternich, Librarian at the Cheviot branch of the Cincinnati Public Library, is extension chairman. Working with her are a hostess and program chairman in each district.

At the date the *Bulletin* went to press programs were not complete but a tentative schedule is given in order to give Association members some idea of what is being planned.

Many queries have been received regarding the next state meeting of the Association. In order to get back on its regular Fall schedule the next state conference of the Ohio Library Association will be held in the Fall of 1948. To date the place has not been chosen.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT—Friday, October 3, at Findlay
Hostess: Catherine Achord, Librarian, Findlay Public Library, Findlay, Ohio
Program Chairman: Elsa Anderson, Librarian, Carnegie Stahl Free Public Library, Bellevue, Ohio

NORTHEAST DISTRICT—Friday, October 10, at Massillon
Hostess: Florence Hulings, Librarian, Massillon Public Library, Massillon, Ohio
Program Chairman: Mrs. Almeda Olmstead, Librarian, New Philadelphia Public Library, New Philadelphia, Ohio

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT—Friday, October 17, at Troy
Hostess: Martha Grey, Librarian, Troy Public Library, Troy, Ohio
Program Chairman: Bernice Merritt, Librarian, Carnegie Library, Greenville, O.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT—Friday, October 24, at Marietta
Host: George J. Blazier, Marietta College Library, Marietta, Ohio
Program Chairman: Lester Stoffel, Librarian, Cambridge Public Library, Cambridge, Ohio

NORTHWEST DSTRICT

Friday, October 3—Findlay

9:30 A. M.

REGISTRATION ..... Findlay High School Auditorium

10:00 A. M.

MORNING SESSION

12:30 P. M.

LUNCHEON

REPORTS

State Librarian
State Library Organizer
President of O. L. A.
President of Ohio Library Trustees Association
Extension Committee Chairman

2:00 - 3:00 P. M.

QUESTION HOUR

3:00 P. M.

SPECIAL GROUPS

Work with Children
School Libraries
College and University Libraries
Public Libraries

NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Friday, October 10—Massillon

9:30 A. M.

REGISTRATION ..... Massillon Public Library

Coffee will be served from 9:30-10:00 A. M. in the Reference Room.

10:00 A. M.

MORNING SESSION ..... Auditorium, Massillon Library

Welcome: Miss B. V. R. Skinner, Chairman, Massillon Library Board

Speaker: Porter Welsh, Head of Book Department, Reliable Supply Company, Massillon

Subject: New Fall Books

12:00 NOON

LUNCHEON ..... Woman's Club, Corner of Fourth and N. E.

REPORTS

Ohio State Librarian
State Library Organizer
President of O. L. A.
Extension Committee Chairman

2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Work with Children ..... Library Basement

DISCUSSION

School Libraries ..... County Room
College and University ..... Reference Room
Public Libraries ..... Auditorium

DISCUSSION:

Record Collections for the Public Library—Audrey Earle, Librarian, Dennison, Ohio

Exchange of Publicity and Poster Materials in Our Neighboring Libraries—Almeda Leake Olmstead, New Philadelphia Public Library

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Friday, October 17—Troy

9:30 A. M.

REGISTRATION ..... Troy Public Library

10:00 A. M.

MORNING LECTURE

The Importance of the Marshall Plan to the Average American

12:00 NOON

LUNCHEON

REPORTS

Ohio State Librarian
State Library Organizer
President of O. L. A.
Extension Committee Chairman

2:00 P. M.

DISCUSSION GROUPS

Public Librarians
County Librarians
Children's Librarians
College and University Librarians

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Mary Morehouse, Librarian, Bellefontaine Public Library
Elizabeth Hedenberg, Bookmobile Librarian, Xenia
Paul Bixler, Librarian, Antioch College, Yellow Springs

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

Friday, October 24—Marietta

9:00 A. M.

REGISTRATION

10:00 A. M.

MORNING SESSION

Changing from a School District Library to a County District Library—Evalan Fischer, Librarian, Logan Public Library
Classification, Pay Plans and Job Analysis—Almeda Leake Olmstead, Librarian, New Philadelphia Public Library
Other speakers to be announced

12:30 P. M.

LUNCHEON

REPORTS

State Librarian
State Library Organizer
President of O. L. A.
President or Representative of Ohio Library Trustees Association
Extension Committee Chairman

2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION

College and University Round Table led by George Blazier, Librarian, Marietta College
School Libraries Round Table (leader to be announced)
Public Libraries Round Table led by Lester Stoffel, Librarian, Cambridge Public Library

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE: This may seem like a re-hash but you can't say we haven't told you.

What the Law Requires Your Board To Do

By Walter Brahm, State Librarian

(1) All library boards except association libraries must hold their annual organization meeting and election of officers some time in January.

If your 1947 organization meeting comes between September 4th, the effective date of this act, and December 31st you skip it. Present officers would hold over until the organization meeting in January.

If your 1947 organization meeting comes between now and September 4th, I suggest your board simply move to continue its present officers until January.

If your 1947 organization meeting has already been held, you will have to elect new officers again in January.

(2) Each board must have a president, vice-president and secretary, **all being members of the board.**

(3) Each board must have a clerk (formerly treasurer) who may or may not be a member of the board. He may be paid or not, as the board wishes. He must have a bond in the amount required by the board.

(4) Whenever a clerk is changed library finances must be examined by the board or committee of the board.

(5) If your library is supported by intangibles taxes any resident of the county has a right to use your library.

(6) An annual report is required to be filed with the State Library Board.

(7) County auditor must turn all funds over to library board to be handled by the board. Please notify your county auditor of this change, if it concerns your library (county, county district, municipal and possibly township are ones affected.)

(8) Money paid out must be on a check signed by clerk and either president or vice-president or secretary.

What the Law Permits Your Board To Do

(1) Permits your library to transform to a county district library, if you are now doing the extension work in the county. If there is no library doing extension work in the county there is opportunity for some library to do so and at the same time change over to the county district type library.

(Municipal, township and association libraries, in particular should consider carefully the advisability of becoming school district ones while they may still do so, or becoming the county district library for their county if they are now doing the extension work in the county. There is no deadline of course on transferring to the latter type. The big advantage of a county district library is the possibility of trying for voted levies on all county real estate in your district. With larger area, the rate of the levy can be very small, a fraction of a mill, with excellent chance of approval. Anybody living in the county district is eligible for membership on the library board. An early change of this type would permit levies to be voted on just that much sooner.

It seems to me there is an opportunity here for many libraries, particularly for the extension center libraries in agricultural counties to secure a firm foundation of organization and finances. If you're skeptical, check into the history and finances of Greene county district library.)

(2) A county district library consisting of all territory not already within the legal boundaries of established libraries in the county may be formed by a vote of the people.

(3) Your library may take service out beyond its legal territory but this must receive the approval of the State Library Board, **unless your library is already giving this service.**

(4) County lines may be crossed in the extension of library service by contract and/or by approval of State Library Board. Although not specifically provided for, regional libraries are thus possible under this law.

(5) Regarding the powers of library boards, the new laws clarify and broaden the old powers. They give libraries the right to contract, to sue and be sued, to acquire and dispose of real and personal property, to hold title to the property of the library, to expand all library funds, to establish branches, library stations and give traveling library service, to employ and fix the compensation of all employees, to make rules for the operation and management of the library, operate a museum, accept a bequest, establish a building fund and in general establish, maintain and promote library service within their territory. This applies to the powers and duties of all library boards whether school district, municipal, county, county district or township.

(It is felt that the laws as rewritten here will help to make clear that library boards do have broad powers and are not to be hindered in the exercise of these unless they can be shown to be abusing these powers. Certain powers, such as the right to pay expenses to library meetings, etc. were not specifically written into the law because it was felt that to do so might cause more rather than fewer limitations. However it was the opinion of legal counsel for the Library Survey Commission that the broad terms of Section 7630 item 2 do give library boards the right to become members of a society in order to secure the society's publications, the right to pay expenses of trustees or librarians to meetings, the right to publish reports describing the library's services, the right to insure a bookmobile driver, etc. I advise that you take advantage of this law and exercise the powers implied therein before the intent of the law is forgotten.

I call your attention particularly to the language of the law. Library boards have the power "to expand for library purposes . . . all monies credited to the free public library under their jurisdiction **and generally do all things they may deem necessary and proper for the establishment, maintenance and improvement of the public library under their jurisdiction.**" In other words, what you, **the board**, feels is necessary for running and bettering the library is permissible.)

POCKET BOOKS

By ROBERT D. FRANKLIN
Assistant Librarian

The Toledo Public Library, after studying the reported experience of the New York, Queens Borough, and other public libraries with paper bound pocket books, decided to make a three month experiment with $100 worth of these reprints, which cost us 20 cents each, net.

To avoid any cataloging at all, only titles already in the library in other editions were selected. The simplest practical methods of ordering, preparing and issue were devised. 50 titles (one copy of each) were placed in each of three branches and 90 titles (two copies of each) were placed in Main, being first displayed in the central court and later placed on racks in the Popular Library. They went better when displayed among other books in the Popular Library. Seventeen of the twenty-four most popular titles (circulating five times in three months) were mysteries.

Although the books are more successful at branches than at Main, they have everywhere proven their merit sufficiently that we are continuing their use indefinitely and extending it throughout the system, adding new titles and gift copies from month to month.

Book cards from the books are filed in the regular issue, classed as pamphlets since all are not fiction. Copy numbers, but not accession numbers, are used. Overdue fines are charged, but overdue notices are not sent. Abuse is charged

for, but wear and tear are liberally regarded and worn books are discarded by simply tearing apart and putting in wastebasket, holding the book card as record of discard. Copies may circulate five, ten, or fifteen times before being discarded, the average so far being about six issues before discard.

Bantam, Penguin and Pocket Book titles were used indiscriminately, and although we expected the last named to be superior in appeal and wear, they seem to be about equal in both respects.

A. L. A. Conference

Two thousand six hundred and fifty-two librarians registered for the 66th annual conference of the American Library Association in San Francisco, June 29 to July 5. The Civic Auditorium was headquarters for the conference, and meetings were held in the buildings of the Civic Center. The Association of College and Reference Libraries held several of its meetings on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley.

Librarians from 24 countries, from the U. S. and Canada attended the conference. Twenty-eight Latin American librarians, guests of the State Department at the Assembly of Librarians of the Americas which convened in Washington in May, ended their tour of U. S. libraries in San Francisco.

Mary U. Rothrock, library specialist for TVA and retiring president of the Association, emphasized the theme of the conference, "Moratorium on Trivia", in her speech at the opening session of the conference, June 30. "Events have placed on today's libraries, as on other institutions concerned with education and enlightenment, a more positive responsibility for getting the insides of books into the minds of men", Miss Rothrock said. "The broad extension of libraries, popular as well as scholarly, is indispensable to the full, purposeful, responsible diffusion of information. How this is to be effected is a question for which we must seek the answer."

Librarians play a vital part in dissemination of information, Paul North Rice, New York Public Library, and incoming president of A.L.A. told librarians in his inaugural address on July 4. "American public libraries", Mr. Rice said, "have always prided themselves on being neutral on all subjects. In this atomic age, however, it may be necessary for us to desert our boasted neutrality. Many of us believe that another war may mean the end of civilization. Many of us are sure that the only hope is international cooperation. If we believe that, do we dare make our libraries neutral as between an isolationist or an international point of view?"

Eight libraries were awarded prizes in the John Cotton Dana Publicity Contest for Library publicity during the past year. Winners were: George Amos Memorial Library, Gillette, Wyoming; Santa Barbara Public Library; South Chicago Branch of the Chicago Public Library; Des Moines Public Library; Minneapolis Public Library; Harley School Library, Rochester, N. Y.; Michigan State Library; and St. Louis Public Library. Honorable mention was given to the Carnegie Library of Homestead at Munhall, Pennsylvania.

Natalie Mayo, head of the Children's Department of the San Francisco Public Library, received the **Letter** Award of $100 given "to thank a man or woman whose work especially exemplifies the human side of librarianship." A **Letter** award for the most outstanding library project was given for the first time this year. The award was made to Enoch Pratt Free Library for its program of adult education in atomic energy.

The effect of rising costs on library service was recognized by the Council of the Association in a resolution affirming "that a public library must have an appropriation now of not less than 50% more than in 1940 if it is to give to its community a library service equal to that given in the pre-war period."

Louis M. Nourse, chairman of the Board on Personnel Administration, reported to Council on the Board's current project of

gathering and analyzing salary data from about 1500 libraries of all types. The Board also sponsored a meeting on salaries, at which representatives of trustees, staff organizations, library administrators, library extension agencies, city governments and library associations presented their views on how librarians can improve salaries. Following are some of the points considered of primary importance in the effort to improve salaries:

Sharp distinction between professional and clerical duties and between various levels of professional work must be made;

Librarians must study their salaries in relation to other comparable professional groups;

Efforts should be made to increase salaries at all levels, not merely to raise minimum salaries;

Libraries must demonstrate the value of their services to their users to convince their governing bodies and the tax-paying public.

The 1948 conference will be held in Atlantic City, June 13-19.

New P. E. R. S. Representative

Miss Dorothy Strouse, Lucas County Library, Maumee, is the miscellaneous group's (which includes librarians) representative on the board of the Public Employees Retirement System. She fills the unexpired term of Jane E. Roberts of Akron.

Sudden Death

Representative Robert W. Dunkle, the sponsor of our library legislation, died suddenly July 27 at his home in Chillicothe. As Association members know Mr. Dunkle contributed an unlimited amount of time and work to our library bills. Walter Brahm represented O.L.A. at the funeral service in Chillicothe.

Personnel Directory

Directory of Personnel in Ohio Libraries, 1947 edition, $1.00. Revised by the Junior Members Section of O. L. A. Irene Frase, editor. Available in the Fall. Order from: M. A. McCray, Warder Public Library, Springfield, Ohio.

Ohio Library Association
News Bulletin

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